

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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TAGS: PFOR PINS PLO XF

SUBJ: GEORGE HABASH CONTINUES DENOUNCE PLO LEADERSHIP AND
ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT

REF: BEIRUT 1944 (NOTAL)

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SUMMARY: PFLP "REJECTIONIST" LEADER GEORGE HABASH,

IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW PUBLISHED HERE FEB 11 IN FRENCH-LANGUAGE L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, EXPOUNDED ON HIS WELL-KNOWN VIEWS RE PLO LEADERSHIP'S ALLEGED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT AND ACCEPT CO-EXISTENCE WITH ISRAEL IN PART OF PALESTINE. HE VOWED PFLP WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO PREVENT THIS AND PROVOKE A NEW WAR WITH ISRAEL. HABASH'S DIE-HARD UTTERANCES, WHICH WE NOTICE HAVE LATELY INCREASED IN BOTH QUANTITY AND IN HARSHNESS, STRIKE US AS ONE MORE EVIDENCE OF A CALCULATED CAMPAIGN BEING MOUNTED BY FEDAYEEN -REJECTION-ISTS" TO AROUSE PALESTINIAN AND ARAB EMOTIONS AGAINST POLICIES STILL BEING PURSUED--ALBEIT WITH GROWING UNEASINESS--BY 'ARAFAT AND CO. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ARE MOST NOTEWORTHY HIGHLIGHTS OF HABASH FEB 11 INTERVIEW, WHICH IS MOST RESPECTS PRESENTED FEW DEPARTURES FROM HIS WELL-KNOWN DIEHARD VIEWS REPORTED OUR A-24 (FEB 7) PREVIOUS.

2. HABASH TOLD HIS INTERVIEWER (L'ORIENT EDITOR EDOUARD SAAB) THAT PFLP'S CURRENT DIFFERENCES WITH PLO LEADERSHIP ARE NOT OVER FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT'S DECLARED OBJECTIVES (I.E., ESTABLISHMENT OF SECULAR DEMOCRATIC STATE IN ALL OF PALESTINE), BUT OVER WHAT STANCE PLO LEADERSHIP, SAID HABASH, "FOOLS NO ONE" BY TRYING TO DEPICT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AS MERELY ANOTHER "STAGE" IN PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE, "SINCE IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN BARTER DEAL" WHICH, IN RETURN FOR RESTORATION OF SOME OR ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, WOULD REQUIRE REDAYEEN TO GIVE UP "ARMED STRUGGLE", COOPERATE IN PLO'S LIGUIDATION", AND ACCEPT "ZONIST-IMPERIALIST-REACTIONARY HEGEMONY THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD".

3. "WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED TODAY, "SAID HABASH, "IS NOT SOME TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT, BUT A SURRENDER OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S HISTORIC RIGHTS. THEY (PRESUMABLY 'ARAFAT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER) SEEKS TO ASSOCIATE PLO WITH EFFORTS BY ARAB REACTIONARIES TO PROTECT IMPERIALSIST INTERESTS IN ME THROUGH CREATION OF A PUNY, NON-VIABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PALESTINIAN RUMP-STATE ON ONLY PART OF PALESTINIAN SOIL.... WE ARE BEING ASKED TO RECOGNIZE ZIONIST ENTITY AND EVEN GRANT GUARANTEES FOR ITS EVERLASTING SURIVIAL, BACKED BY A PEACE TREATY." "WE DEMAND TO KNOW," HE ADDED, "WHETHER PLO IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT OR OPPOSE THIS DEVELOPMENT OPENLY." HABASH RESPONDED HOTLY TO SAAB'S SUGGESTION THAT PLO SUCCESSES AT RABAT SUMMIT AND UNGA HAD BEEN FEDAYEEN "VICTORIES". "WE WILL KNOWN," HE SAID, "HOW TO JUDGE IMPORTANCE AND REALITY OF THESE SO-CALLED 'VICTORIES' WHEN WE SEE FRUITION OF MANEUVERS AND PLOTS

CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS".

4. HABASH LEFT NO DOUBT (AS IF THERE WERE ANY) ABOUT HIS OWN POSITION: "WE WILL NEVER ACCEPT A CRUMMY PALESTINIAN STATE IN RETURN FOR RECOGNIZING ISRAEL. WE WILL NOT RETURN TO PLO EX COMM UNTIL IT RENOUNCES COMPLETELY ALL THOUGH OF PARTICIPATING IN KISSINGER'S NEGOTIATED-SETTLEMENT PROCESS.... WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PROVOKE A NEW WAR AGAINST THE JEWISH STATE, AND WE WILL NOT LOSE IT. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF COEXISTENCE BETWEEN A USIRPED PEOPLE AND THEIR USURPERS." HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH PFLP HAS CEASED TO HIJACK AIRCRAFT, IT HAS NOT GIVEN UP ITS "FOREIGN OPERATION" AGAINST TARGETS IN ISRAEL AND ELSEWHERE.

5. ALTHOUGH HABASH ADMITTED THAT "POLICY DIFFERENCES" EXIST BETWEEN PFLP AND USSR, HE NOTED THAT HE WAS SOVS "BELONG TO SAME CAMP, THAT OF INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTION. THEY ACCEPT ISRAEL; WE REJECT IT. THEY WILL APPROVE OF US, HOWEVER, ON DAY WHEN WE SUCCEED IN LIBERATING EVERY INCH OF PALESTINIAN SOIL."

6. COMMENT: HABASH'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE ASSUMED MARKEDLY GREATER FREQUENCY AND HARSHNESS OF LATE, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WE ATTRIBUTE TO HIS SENDING OF GROWING DISAPPOINTMENT AND UNEASINESS WITHIN FEDAYEEN RANKS OVER FAILURE OF 'ARAFAT AND HIS "MODERATE" ASSOCIATES TO PRODUCE FURTHER "VICTORIES" FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE (REFTEL). IN OUR VIEW, HABASH HAS LONG BEEN WAITING FOR MOMENT WHEN 'ARAFAT'S POLICIES WOULD BECOME BANKRUPT IN PALESTINIAN EYES, CONFIDENTLY EXPECTING TO PICK UP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT'S MARBLES AMID "REJECTIONIST" BANKLASH THAT WOULD FOLLOW. WOULD APPEAR HE THINKS THAT MOMENT MAY REPIDLY BE APPROACHING, NOW THAT SIGNS OF DISRRARY AND DISILLUSIONMENT ARE BECOMING MORE EVIDENT AMONG PLO "MODERATES" AS RESULT OF THEIR CONTINUED EXCLUSION FROM ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS.
GODLEY

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